

OSPIRG

We know it's hard to keep up with what's actually going on in our state legislature, so here's a brief legislative update brought to you by OSPIRG. This list contains environmental legislation OSPIRG is directly working on or supporting, and also some bills OSPIRG is opposing. If you'd like to learn more about any of these bills, call the Capitol's toll-free hotline for bill information at 1-800-332-2313, or OSPIRG at 231-4181 in Portland.

If you'd like your voice heard, you can always take pen to paper and write a letter (Capitol address is: Your Senator/Representative, State Capitol, Salem 97310). Or call the Capitol through the public access number (1-800-327-7389), leave a message and your representative will call you back. It's your government, let them know what's on your mind. (compiled 4/9)

POLLUTION PREVENTION

SAFE DRINKING WATER CAMPAIGN — protecting Oregon's groundwater resources by establishing a pesticide right-to-know program and requiring large pesticide users to pay for cleanups and pesticide use reduction programs.

1. PESTICIDE REFORM — SB 195

Description: pesticide right-to-know program for citizens and farmworkers, fees on agricultural chemicals to fund groundwater cleanups, pesticide use reduction goal and research into alternatives, and waste pesticides collection

Key Supporters: OSPIRG, Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides (NCAP), PCUN (Farmworkers Union), Oregon Environmental Council (OEC)

Status: Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee, public hearings 4/7, 4/14

2. WELLHEAD PROTECTION — HB 2149

Description: establishes program for communities to manage surface activities that may contaminate public drinking water wells

Key Supporters: Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ bill), OEC

Status: Natural Resources Committee, Water subcommittee, hearing and work session 2/25-tabled by 6-1 vote

3. CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO CLEAN ENVIRONMENT — SJR 1

Description: guarantees right to healthy environment and protects rights of future generations

Key Supporters: Cascadia Network

Status: referred to Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, hearing 2/15

4. WATER WATCH — H2O RESOURCES — SB 960

Description: helps get H2O back into streams, requires water use reporting

Key Supporters: Water Watch, fish and natural resources groups

Status: Sen. Water Policy Committee, hearing 4/13

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE—expanding collection programs for household hazardous waste and pesticides, and requiring better labelling of consumer products with toxic ingredients

1. HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION — SB 67

Description: expands collection of household hazardous waste, calls for voluntary shelf labelling

Key Supporters: DEQ bill

Status: referred to Agriculture Natural Resources Committee Committee, Hearings 2/24, work sess 3/19 and 4/2-in negotiations, 4/9 work sess - bill voted out of Committee 6-1, now goes to Ways and Means

2. HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE SHELF LABELLING—HB 2955

Description: mandatory shelf labelling

Key Supporters: Rep. Kate Brown

Status: referred to Natural Resources

POLLUTION PREVENTION BILLS TO OPPOSE:

1. RIGHT TO FARM — SB 116

Description: exempts farmers from liability for harms caused by customary farming practices

Key Supporters: Oregonians for Food and Shelter, Farm Bureau submitted House bills, Dept. of Agriculture submitted Senate bill

Status: SB 116 referred to Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, hearing 3/29; House bills in Natural Resources Committee, E&E sub-hearing on all-3/29

Groups in opposition: OEC, NCAP, Sierra Club, and Oregon Tilth

2. ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS — HB 2662

Description: Oregon Environmental Quality Commission and Department of Environmental Quality shall not adopt environmental rules or standards that are more stringent than federal standards

Key Supporters: Associated Oregon Industries

Status: referred to Watt Leg Rules Committee, hearings 2/22, 3/15, and 3/26, work session 3/29 and 4/5, passed to full Committee, full Committee work session 4/14

3. STATE REGULATIONS — HB 2716

Description: state agencies shall not adopt regulations that are more stringent than federal regulations, unless conditions in Oregon are so unique that the federal law can not be enforced.

Key Supporters: Associated Oregon Industries

Status: referred to Watt Leg Rules Committee, Hearings 2/22 and 3/15

4. ADMINISTRATIVE RULES — HJR 22

Description: administrative rules must be approved by legislature

Status: referred to Watt Leg Rules Committee, hearing 2/22, hearing and work sessions 3/1 and 3/12-PASSED HOUSE 44-13 on 3/23-referred to Sen. Judiciary, hearing 4/5

5. WEAKEN OR COMMUNITY RIGHT-TO-KNOW — HB 3450

Description: Weakens reporting requirements in Oregon's Community Right-to-Know program to less stringent federal requirements

Key Supporters: ABLA

Status: referred to Natural Resources

TOXICS USE REDUCTION—phasing out unnecessary toxics such as methyl bromide, PVC food packaging, and toxics in batteries.

1. METHYL BROMIDE BAN — HB 3020

Description: phase out pesticide methyl bromide by 1/1/97

Key Supporters: Rep. Edmundson

Status: referred to Natural Resources Committee

2. PVC PACKAGING BAN — HB 3279

Description: phases out rigid PVC packaging by 7/1/94

Key Supporters: Rep. Nancy Peterson

Status: referred to Natural Resources Committee, hearing 4/8-continuation will be scheduled

3. TOXIC BATTERIES — HB 3606

Description: bans mercuric oxide button cell batteries

Key Supporters: Rep. Naito

Status: referred to Natural Resources Committee

Legislative

CHLORINE FREE PAPER—increasing demand for chlorine-free paper products through government procurement policies.

1. CHLORINE FREE PAPER PROCUREMENT—HB 3466

Description: requires govt. procurement of chlorine-free paper

Key Supporters: Rep. Gail Shibley

Status: referred to Gen. Gov't

MISCELLANY:

ENVIRONMENTAL CRIMES — SB 88

Description: strengthens penalties for environmental crimes

Key Supporters: DEQ bill

Status: referred to Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, hearing 3/8 and 3/19; subsequent referral will be to Judiciary Committee

RESOURCE CONSERVATION

PLASTICS RECYCLING — requiring the plastics industry to use less virgin plastic and more recycled content in plastic packaging.

1. PLASTICS RECYCLING — SB 1038

Description: would require plastics to be recycled at a rate of 50% or contain 50% recycled content by the year 2000

Key Supporters: Sen. Springer

Status: referred to Sen. Agriculture Natural Resources Committee, Hearing 3/31 and 4/2

ENVIRONMENTAL LABELING —establishing strict standards for the use of the labels "recyclable" and "recycled content".

1. ENVIRONMENTAL LABELING — SB 857

Description: establishes definitions and standards for the use of the terms "recyclable" and "recycled content" on labels, must identify percentage of post-consumer waste

Key Supporters: Sen. Joyce Cohen

Status: referred to Sen. Agriculture Natural Resources Com.

2. RECYCLABLE LOGO — SB 1039

Description: removes recycling arrows from packaging that cannot be recycled in Oregon

Key Supporters: Sen. Springer

Status: referred to Sen. Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee, hearing 3/31 and 4/2

MARKET DEVELOPMENT — promoting the development of recycling markets through an industry financed council and targeted tax credits

1. RECYCLING MARKET DEVELOPMENT — SB 1011

Description: revising tax credits to targeted recycling markets development

Key Supporters: Recycling Markets Development Council, Sen. Springer and Sen. Cease

Status: referred to Sen. Agriculture Natural Resources Committee, hearing 4/5 and 4/12

2. STATE PROCUREMENT — HB 3467

Description: require state to purchase plastics that meet recycling standards

Key Supporters: Rep. Shibley to sponsor

Status: referred to Natural Resources

MISCELLANY

BOTTLE BILL — HB 2701

Description: puts deposit on all beverage containers except milk containers

Key Supporters: Rep. Carl Hosticka

Status: referred to Natural Resources, Energy + Enviro sub,

USED OIL RECYCLING — SB 1014

Description: sets standards for used oil recycling centers, exempts centers who meets standards from liability

Key Supporters: Association of Oregon Recyclers, Sen. Springer

Status: referred to Agriculture Natural Resources Committee, then Ways and Means

LANDFILLS — SB 543

Description: landfills shall not be exempted from tipping fees by entering into a contract that prohibits passing fees through in garbage and dumping costs

Key Supporters: Sen. Springer, DEQ

Status: referred to Sen. Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee, hearings 3/29, 4/2 and 4/9

RESOURCE CONSERVATION BILLS TO OPPOSE:

1. RECYCLING EXEMPTION-MEDICAL PACKAGING — SB 641

Description: exempts medical packaging from recycling standards in SB66

Status: referred to Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee Committee, Hearing 3/31

2. RECYCLING EXEMPTION-PLASTIC PACKAGING — SB 1006

Description: exempts plastic packaging from standards in Oregon's 1991 Recycling Act

Status: referred to Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, Hearing 3/31 and 4/2

3. RECYCLING DEFINITIONS — SB 1009

Description: clarifies responsible parties for compliance with plastics recycling requirements in SB 66

Key Supporters: Associated Oregon Industries

Status: referred to Senate Agriculture Natural Resources Committee Committee, hearing 3/31

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

TRANSPORTATION POLICY—amending the Constitution to eliminate restrictions that impede flexible transportation policy.

1. USE OF GAS TAX REVENUES FOR PUBLIC TRANSIT — SJR 2

Description: amends constitution to allow gas tax revenues to be used for public transportation and efforts to reduce auto pollution.

Key Supporters: Sen. Tricia Smith

Status: referred to Senate Transportation Committee, Hearing 3/17, work session 4/16

2. PORTLAND EMISSION FEES — HB 2419 and HJR 7 (SB 425)

Description: creates a new emissions fee in Portland to fund public transit and efforts to reduce air pollution

Key Supporters: Rep. Delna Jones, Oregon Department of Transportation, Associated Oregon Industries

Status: HB 2419 dead in House, HJR 7 - being amended to relate to new vehicle registration fee, referred to Revenue and School Finance

AUTOMOBILE USE—promoting alternatives to inefficient automobile use.

1. WORK TRIP REDUCTION — HB 3468

Description: requires state government agencies to reduce employee single occupancy commuting

Key Supporters: Rep. Gail Shibley, OR Department Of Energy

Status: referred to General Gov't, then Ways and Means

Update

2. AUTO FUEL EFFICIENCY SURCHARGE — SB 187

Description: imposes fuel efficiency surcharge on the sale of new and used passenger vehicles

Key Supporters: Sen. Ag. and Natural Resources Com. bill

Status: Sen. Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, hearing 3/1, on hold

BUILDING EFFICIENCY — increasing the efficiency of older buildings not covered by current energy codes.

1. BUILDING EFFICIENCY — HB 2653

Description: requires real estate appraisals to include information about the building energy efficiency

Key Supporters: Rep. Lisa Naito, lead sponsor, PGE

Status: in Commerce Committee

MISCELLANY

DECOUPLING — HB 2204, (related bill SB 544)

Description: both bills sever the link between an electric utility's profitability and its electricity sales levels. HB 2204 enables the PUC to adopt a broad set of regulatory mechanisms to foster least-cost planning, including decoupling

Key Supporters: A Public Utility Commission bill

Status: House Natural Resources Committee Committee, Sen. Natural Resources Committee- hearing 3/15,

SB 544 PASSED SENATE 30-0 3/19, referred to House Natural Resources Committee

STATE AGENCY ENERGY EFFICIENCY — HB 2054

Description: allows state agencies to retain 50% of net savings gained due to energy efficiency programs or use of renewable resources

Status: referred to Natural Resources Com.-Env Energy Subcommittee, public hearing 2/1, hearing and work session 2/22, referred back to full Committee with no action taken, work session 4/1

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY BILLS TO OPPOSE:

1. BICYCLE REGISTRATION FEE — HB 2430

Description: imposes registration fees on bicycle

Status: referred to General Gov't and Revenue Committee, subsequent referral to Revenue and School Finance Committee

2. CREATION OF ENERGY COMMISSION — SB 153 (section 29 (4e))

Description: amends state's global warming strategy from reducing emissions 20% by 2005 to stabilizing emissions, eliminates inter-agency aspects of global warming plan.

Status: referred to Agriculture Natural Resources Committee, then Trade Econ Devel Committee, public hearing 2/10-hearing 4/5, work sess 4/7

3. ENERGY FACILITY SITING — SB 1016

Description: revamps energy generating facility siting process

Key Supporters: private and public utilities

Status: referred to Agriculture Natural Resources Committee, hearings 3/27 and 4/5, working group created

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I have always been among those who believed that freedom of speech was the greatest safety, because if a man is a fool, the best thing to do is to encourage him to advertise that fact by speaking.

Woodrow Wilson



We voted on something that shouldn't matter. Ballot Measure Nine was an appalling example of blind prejudice and ignorance running amuck. Their desperate attempts to strengthen themselves by destroying a way of life interpreted as threatening has been shellacked with the thin veneer of maintaining family values. To protect our children, the OCA has devised a homosexual boogeyman to fight. Faced with the real problems of teen drug use and pregnancy, the 'danger' of homosexuality fades to a phantom. To formulate an educated opinion, children must be aware of all sides of an issue. They cannot be taught to tolerate blatant discrimination. Accepting bigotry and racism in any form is sacrificing our freedom as individuals. We must not infringe on basic human rights. The panic-stricken mass of the OCA is creating a mockery of freedom. They need to restrain and restrict us to fit an image supported by right wing christian fundamentalists. We cannot allow individualism to be stifled. Their efforts to undermine our civil liberties must be stopped. Hatred affects us all. The fight is not over.

Garnett

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